

THE DODHH BULLETIN

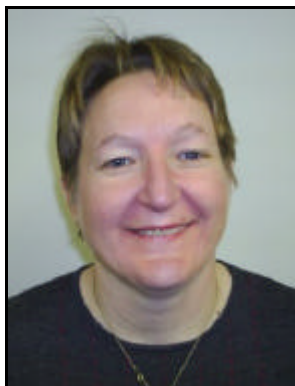
Mission: The Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing with the guidance of the Advisory Council shall affirm the indisputable right of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons to secure effective communication.

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www.mcddc-dodhh.org

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Department of Labor & Economic Growth

Spring 2005



Twyla Niedfeldt Named Hard of Hearing Specialist

**Ann Liming retired on
Feb. 25, 2005, after 5
plus years of service.**

Twyla Niedfeldt

Meet Twyla Niedfeldt, who began as the new Hard of Hearing Specialist on April 11. She earned her Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling degree from Utah State University, and has her Certification in Deafness Studies from Northern Illinois University. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services from Carroll College in Wisconsin and Certification in Non-Profit Management from Carroll College.

Twyla's long standing involvement and leadership in community based agencies includes: Self-Help for Hard of Hearing People as Chapter Leader, State Board Trustee, State Chapter Development Co-Coordinator and State Board President, Wisconsin Governors Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as Hard of Hearing Representative, and Postsecondary Education Providers Network (PEPNet).

Twyla and her family moved from Wisconsin, near Milwaukee, to Pottsville, MI. Welcome Twyla!

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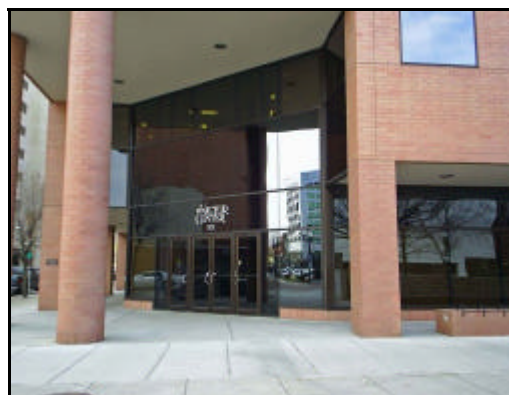
DODHH Moves Again to a Model Office

DODHH and MCDC office have moved to The Victor Center, a nine-story building in downtown Lansing. DODHH was housed in this building from 1990 until 1996, when we moved to the Thorhill Building. This time, we are in Suite 150, a larger office space near the front entrance. The office space, designed to be totally accessible for persons with all disabilities, will serve as a model for government and businesses.

The accessibility includes:

- Electronic door at the entrance
- Wide halls and doorways
- Videophone for public use
- TTY phone for public use
- Amplified phone for public use
- Audio looped meeting rooms
- Visual alarm system
- Braille labels on staff name signs
- Videophone and TTY in DODHH director's office
- Audio loop in Hard of Hearing Specialist's office
- Thin carpet for chair users
- Raised table in meeting room
- Security cameras pointed at front and back doors

See new contact information on page 8.



The Victor Center

DODHH

Information

Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing

201 N. Washington Square
Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-335-6004 Voice/TTY
Toll free: 877-499-6232 Voice/TTY
Fax: 517-335-7773
Dodhh@michigan.gov
Videophone IP: dodhh.net
Web Address: www.mcdc-dodhh.org

Staff

Christopher Hunter *Director*

517-335-6004 TTY
HunterC2@michigan.gov

Maureen Wallace *Interpreter Coordinator*

517-335- Voice/TTY
WallaceM2@michigan.gov

Twyla Niedfeldt *Hard of Hearing Specialist*

517-335- Voice/TTY
niedfeldtt@michigan.gov

Advisory Council

Rose Smith, Chair	Westphalia, MI
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Jill Gaus	Jackson, MI
Michelle Graham	Clarkston, MI
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Linda Sykora	Burlington, MI
Juanita Wikman	Muskegon, MI



Director's Corner

By Chris Hunter

DODHH is now in its 68th year. It was established in 1937 and revitalized in 1979 after four years of inactivity.

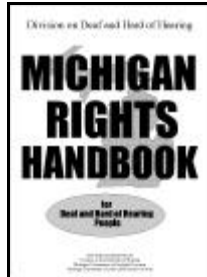
Move. DODHH staff is preparing for the move to its new office building, hopefully during the last week of May or first week of June. See article on the front page. The staff will not accept any appointments during those weeks.

2005 Michigan TTY, Interpreter and Service Directory is being printed. It will be mailed out to all deaf and hard of hearing people in April. Those who do not receive it by June 1st, let the DODHH office know.



Michigan Rights Handbook for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People will be

completed soon and mailed out to deaf and hard of hearing people in the fall.



Both books will be available for the general public and can be picked up from DODHH and the offices of non-profit deaf/hh service organizations.

E-Michigan Website. DODHH continues to support the important E-Michigan for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people website. It answers many questions related to Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and issues. I suggest that you first look on the website for answers. If you cannot find the answers you need, contact one of the member agencies of Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People that maintains it. The address is www.michdhh.org.

Silent Retreat. Last year the Silent Retreat was cancelled due to low enrollment. We are offering it again this year July 15-17 at MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon. See page 7 for more information.

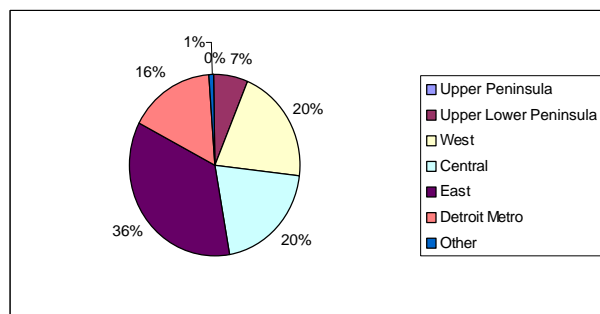
CapTel: At the time of this writing, the Michigan Public Service Commission is considering the approval of CapTel as a part of the Michigan Relay Service. The public comments were sent to MPSC by the April 12, 2005, deadline. Once it is approved, we hope that SBC will start providing the CapTel service in Michigan in the fall.

We welcome your comments. You are welcome to our Advisory Council meetings in Lansing. See box on page 3.

2004 Interpreter Survey Report

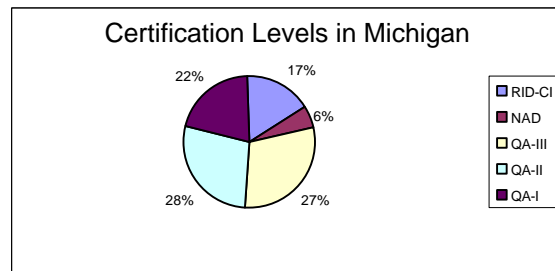
In November of 2004 a survey was sent out to 678 interpreters in the state of Michigan. In January of 2005 the results of this survey were compiled and analyzed by the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Approximately 31% of those who received the survey replied. A total of 18 questions were asked covering various topics. This article will summarize a few of the results.

The concentration of interpreters around the state was one of the major issues this survey hoped to learn about. The interpreters who received the survey were asked which part of the state they lived in. Not surprisingly, the largest percentage of interpreters came from the east side of the state which included areas like Flint and Saginaw. While there were some interpreters found in the upper portion of lower Michigan, no interpreters from the Upper Peninsula replied to this survey, showing a great lack of interpreters in the northern part of our state. The chart below shows all of the interpreters' responses in percentages.



Another important question asked in the survey was the status of certification levels among interpreters. Among the 181 interpreters who replied to this question, the largest groups were the QAII and QAIII state qualification levels. This survey also discovered that 24.4% of respondents with a QA1 or below are currently working in a school system. Technically, schools that employ these interpreters are not in compliance of MARSE. Also, about 63%

of respondents had graduated from an Interpreter Training Program. A breakdown of certification levels into percentages is in the chart below.



Another important topic was payment for interpreter services. The average rate of pay for an interpreter (including all certification and qualification levels) was \$19.00 per hour. The lowest rate of pay reported was \$8.00, while the largest rate of pay reported was \$40.00 per hour. Naturally, this difference in payment reflects the difference in certification level of interpreters. For the calendar year 2003, the average total income for an interpreter was \$21,289. The lowest income reported was \$200 while the largest income reported was \$57,000. These income levels were meant to represent interpreter-related income only, and includes both part-time and full-time interpreters.

Liability insurance for interpreters is an increasingly important topic and was also addressed in the survey. According to respondents, only 24% of interpreters around the state have liability insurance. This number is much lower than we had hoped for, and we look forward to more interpreters having liability insurance in the future.

Finally, this survey concluded that 39% of interpreters are working full-time in a school system and 50% are working for an interpreter agency. These numbers may overlap as some interpreters work for a school through an agency. Among those interpreters working for an agency, 17% of those interpreters work for that agency full-time, 31% part-time, and 51% work on contract.

A full report is available upon request. Contact us for a copy in electronic, printed or large print format.

DODHH Advisory Council Meeting

October 7, 2005

**Michigan Economic Development Corp.
300 N. Washington Square, Lansing
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Lake Michigan Room – 1st Floor
For information, contact DODHH**

SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Robert Collinge



Darlene talks on business phone while Robert confers with his employees.



R & C Grinding in Mt. Clemens, MI., produces tools and die.

Chris Hunter had the privilege of interviewing Robert Collinge, the founder of R & C Grinding Inc. Mr. Collinge has been profoundly deaf since age one, when Scarlet Fever and Mumps caused his hearing loss. Through many challenges and hardships, Mr. Collinge has not allowed his deafness to prevent his success in life.

He began a lifetime of hard work at a young age. At age 15 he left school and began earning money. He gained working experience at a tool and die shop, and at a GM assembly plant. By age 26, he was ready to start his own business! Since he was a young boy Mr. Collinge had shown interest and skill in mechanics. While he does not credit his education with much value, his years of self-education and work experience paid off.

Mr. Collinge was determined to start his own business and ignored criticism from those who didn't believe in him. He was told that starting his own busi-

"Follow your dreams, never give up!"

***Robert Collinge,
Deaf Company Owner***

ness would be impossible because he was deaf, but Mr. Collinge refused to believe this. Now, after decades of long hours and dedication, R&C Grinding is still a success.

Mr. Collinge has certainly had frustrations throughout his years of business, but has never let these challenges pre-

vent his success as an entrepreneur. With determination, Mr. Collinge taught himself how to manage money and deal with customers. Never letting his hearing loss slow him down, he used lip reading, pen and paper, and speech to communicate with others. Mr. Collinge also has three hearing children. His daughter Darlene currently works at R & C Grinding and frequently interprets for her father. Mr. Collinge loves working with his daughter and considers her "a big help." Darlene accompanied her father at our interview and told me that she and her father "make a great team." The shop also has five employees, one of whom is deaf.

His advice for the Deaf community is: "Follow your dreams, never give up!"



Historic Meeting to Draft Amendment to P.A. 204, Deaf Person's Interpreter Act

In the photo are (L to R) Maureen Wallace, Chris Hunter, Tom Martin (DLEG Legislative Liaison), Rep. Gleason and Janet Juris, Interpreter. They met on April 12, 2005, to discuss the amendment to P.A. 204 to set up sign language interpreter standards for Michigan and to cover medical, legal, financial, education and employment situations in addition to the court. Watch for progress reports in future issues.

Interpreters – This News Is for You

Maureen Wallace, State Interpreter Coordinator



Spring has finally arrived. Workshops, final exams, continuing education units and graduation are topics that

seem to come up frequently. By the time you receive this bulletin, Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (MIRID) will have concluded the first state conference. Many thanks go to the MIRID board (all volunteers) for planning the conference and I, for one, hope this will be an annual event. Hope you attended the conference, earned your continuing education units (CEUs), and enjoyed the various workshops.

Educational Interpreters: Chris Hunter and I have been working with a core planning group and key staff from the Department of Education (DOE) on Interpreters for the 21st Century. As you probably know, there continues to be a critical shortage of qualified interpreters in Michigan. The two departments are working to ensure effective communication for deaf and hard of hearing people, especially students, and recognize the interpreting

profession, standards, pay, benefits and addressing the shortage of interpreters. We are working to add the interpreter profession to career paths, vocational choices, and job fairs within the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG).

P.A. 204 Amendment: We have meetings set up with a legislator to begin the process for amending PA 204-the deaf person's interpreter act. When we get draft legislation back, we will give you more details including a bill number. Next on our agenda is the joint meeting between staff of DOE and DLEG to discuss and implement recommendations from the statewide referent group on interpreter standards, special education rules for educational interpreters, educational needs of deaf and hard of hearing students, transition plans and expanding our pool of qualified interpreters.

New Video on Interpreter Career: The Technology and Media Office of DLEG just completed production of a Job Show on Sign Language Interpreters. This accessible program will be shown on cable TV stations, with video-taped copies of the show made available upon re-

quest in an effort to recruit and train more interpreter candidates to meet the statewide shortage of qualified interpreters. We are urging more public schools to offer American Sign Language (ASL) to middle school and high school students. These students, fluent in ASL, could then attend an interpreter training program at the community college, get their degree and have entry level skills as interpreters.

New Nationally Certified Interpreters

Ashley Oakley CI, CT
Helene Stankus CI
Lois Van Broekhoven CT
Joyce Washington CT
Kim Willett CI

Congratulations!

NAD Interpreters:

The dual arrangement between RID and NAD **requires** NAD interpreters to maintain annual membership in both organizations and also maintain their certification through active participation in the RID Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) and Ethical Practices System (EPS). Some NAD interpreters are not fully aware that the time is running out. NAD certification status of these individuals will expire at 12 midnight on June 30, 2005. This deadline is final; there will be no reinstatements after this date. For more information: contact www.NAD.org/nci.html.

REMINDER:

Interpreters interested in working for the state must comply with regulations. These regulations require interpreters be listed on the state vendor list, have liability insurance, proof of automobile insurance and current certification or qualification cards. Call me if you have any questions.

Hearing Assistance Technology Training



Brenda Stimons demonstrates the devices

Thirteen people representing various agencies, organizations and colleges gathered together in the meeting room of a state office building in Lansing on Friday, March 25, to learn about hearing assistive technology. Information about hearing loss that supported the need for assistive technology was included in the all-day training session. Up-to-date telephone options, Internet and video relay services and two-way text pagers

and smart phones were presented. Alerting devices were demonstrated, and attendees were given the opportunity to try a variety of assistive listening devices. Presenters for the training were Nan Asher, Michigan Association of Deaf, Hearing and Speech Services (MADHS); Brenda Stimson, Deaf C.A.N.!; and Ann Liming, formerly with the DODHH. All three women were trained by Michigan Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (MI-SHHH) as Hearing Technology Resource Specialists.



2005 Michigan Deaf Association Conference

50th Biennial MDA Conference will be held Sept. 28—Oct 1, 2005, at Marriott CenterPoint, 3600 Centerpointe Parkway, Pontiac, MI.

DODHH is one of the sponsors of the conference. The conference will have three days of workshops in one room so that everyone can listen to all speakers. The conference will have business meetings on Wednesday and open Thursday morning with show of 15 candidates for Miss Deaf Michigan and 8 past presidents giving their stories. The tentative workshop topics will be: ASL/English Bilingual Education as an Option, Being a Good Leader, Cochlear Implant...Cure or Curse, Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Big Difference, Improving Educational Services for Deaf/HH Children, NAD Updates, Deaf Women's Well Being Running Organization or Club Meetings, Update on SS, SSI, SSDI and Future of SS, What Is New in Telecommunications?, Wireless Devices and You, and more.

The guest speakers include: Andy Lange, President of National Association of the Deaf, and Dr. Bob Anthony, director of Northview School Program for Deaf and HH. There will be the Miss Deaf Michigan Pageant on Friday evening. The banquet and entertainment by Tony Award Winning Deaf Actress Phyllis Frelich will be on Saturday evening.

For information, tickets, hotel reservations, sponsorships, advertisements, see the website: www.mideaf.org. or contact:

Jeff Hockenberger, Chair
2005 MDA Conference
516 Marlin Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Fax: 248-546-4469
Email: jjhockie516@comcast.net
Or Chris Hunter at DODHH

A Service of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

\$160 for
2 Nights
5 Meals
Classes
Fun

2005 DODHH SILENT RETREAT

July 15-17, 2005

Roscommon, MI



See DODHH website for additional information:
www.dodhh.org

Tel : 877- 499- 6232 T/V

- ♦ **PURPOSE:** As a part of the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing goals, the annual Silent Retreat was started in 1987 to provide an opportunity for those with basic American sign language skills to improve their skills through full immersion in Deaf culture in a casual and relaxed setting. Various activities throughout the weekend allow participants a chance to expand their skills and awareness of Deaf culture and to interact with Deaf adults.
- ♦ **FOR WHOM:** Adults age 18 and older **who have completed one year or two ASL college courses or the equivalent**, including: 1) sign language students; 2) beginning interpreters; 3) Deaf or hard of hearing adults learning ASL; 4) parents of a Deaf/HH child; 5) professionals working with Deaf/HH people.

July 15-17, 2005
Roscommon, MI

Make \$160 check out to "State of Michigan" and mail to:

Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing
320 N. Washington Sq. Ste 250
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: 877-499-6232 T/V
Fax: 517-334-6637
Email: dodhh@michigan.gov

2005 Silent Retreat Registration

Deadline: June 20, 2005

ASL Skill Level



Name _____

☐ Male

☐ Intermediate

Address _____

☐ Female

☐ Advanced

City, State, Zip _____

☐ Native-like

Phone _____

Email _____

Saturday Dinner Choice

☐ Strip Steak

☐ Orange Roughy Fish

☐ Vegetarian



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Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Department of Labor & Economic Growth
201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48909
877-499-6232 T/V
Dodhh@michigan.gov
Videophone IP: dodhh.net

The DODHH Bulletin is produced up to four times a year. Persons interested in deafness or hard of hearing may subscribe at no cost by contacting DODHH.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in THE DODHH Bulletin are those of the author. Mention of goods and services does not mean DODHH endorsement, nor should exclusion suggest disapproval.

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to this agency.

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2005 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 6/4 – 6/05 | ASL 4 Us Midwestern Conference. <i>For more information:</i> www.asl4us.com |
| 6/19 – 25/05 | Ralph Lynam Leadership Institute of MADHS for Deaf and Hard of Hearing High School Students. <i>For more information:</i> www.madhs.org and click on "Youth Programs" on the left. |
| 6/23 – 26/05 | National Alliance of Black Interpreters Conference. <i>For more information:</i> www.naobi.org |
| 6/24/05 | 10 year MADHS Leadership Reunion for all graduates of the 1995-2004 MADHS Leadership Training School. <i>For more information:</i> Look at Reunion information at: www.madhs.org |
| 6/25 – 29/05 | Deaf Women United Conference. <i>For more information:</i> www.dwu.org |
| 6/30 – 7/3/05 | 25th Anniversary of SHHH, 2005 National Convention. <i>For more information:</i> www.hearingloss.org/html/convention.html |
| 7/10 – 15/05
pret | 2005 RID National Conference. <i>For more information:</i> Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (703) 838-0459 TTY or (703) 838-0030 V or www.rid.org/conv.html |
| 7/11/05 | Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People meeting, 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM. Contact Nan Asher at 800-youarear V/T |
| Aug. 10-14, | 2005-DeafBlind Workshop, Brooklyn, MI |
| 8/31 – 9/5/05 | 8th Biennial Deaf Seniors of America Conference. <i>For more information:</i> www.deafseniors.org |
| 9/16/05 | Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns (MCDC) meeting, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Lansing |
| 9/17 | Deaf Arts Festival, Brooklyn, MI www.deafartsfestival.org/ |
| 9/26 – 10/1/05 | 50th Biennial Michigan Deaf Association Conference, www.mideaf.org |
| 10/1 | Deaf Celebration Day, Summit Place Mall, Waterford, MI |